

MARITIME EXPERTS CHECK SHIP BIDS

Cost Statisticians Seek to Determine Cause of "Excessive" Asking Prices.

By JOHN C. HENRY.
Expert cost statisticians of the United States Maritime Commission have called on at least one of the large private shipbuilding firms of the country for a most minute itemization of ship construction costs in an effort to segregate the factors responsible for the "excessive" bids submitted the Government early this month, it was learned yesterday.

Although all bids were submitted in some detail and with itemized work sheets attached, commission officials felt that the information made available did not constitute an adequate justification of the prices given. In his letter to President Roosevelt describing the bids as excessive, former Commission Chairman Joseph P. Kennedy remarked that the circumstance was "extremely difficult to explain." Neither costs of labor nor of materials could justify the price level, he said.

Accordingly, not content with the routine analysis of bids by their cost technicians here, the commission dispatched two experts to the home office of one of the big bidders for more searching examination of estimates employed in drafting the bids. This examination was under way throughout the last week.

Firms Justify Bids.
Meanwhile, with a figurative shrug of their shoulders, the large shipbuilding companies privately are citing various features for which little precedent exists in estimating costs.

1. The C-2 type of ships for which the bids at issue were asked contain various features for which little precedent exists in estimating costs.

2. Application of the Walsh-Healey act calling for high wage and hour standards in connection with production of materials to be used in filling Government contracts.

3. Taxes, particularly payroll and undistributed corporate income levies. The latter, it is claimed, prevented the firms from retaining surpluses adequate to balance possible losses in fulfilling the contracts or to finance any expanded facilities needed.

4. Unstable labor conditions, which make it difficult to estimate labor cost over the two or three years needed to complete the jobs under discussion.

5. Statutory limitation of profit percentage on Government jobs, which forecloses any prospect of heavy margin on one bid to counteract unforeseen loss on another.

6. Such factors of uncertainty as unpredictable demands which might be made by commission inspectors during the construction work. In this regard, it was pointed out that the private yards doing Navy work know the general requirements of that department but that different standards might be established arbitrarily by the commission.

Contract Hazards Cited.
Feeling that these and other circumstances have increased the hazards faced by firms contracting to do the work, most of the companies submitted what they describe as "safe" bids in which an effort was made to cover every possible unfavorable development during fulfillment of the contracts.

Although many of these factors will apply also to naval building, spokesmen for the private builders are predicting that the degree of "excessiveness" will not be as great and may not throw preliminary estimates for this type of construction as far off as is feared.

With the commission awaiting the further findings of its cost experts before deciding whether to discard the bids for the 12 vessels desired, or whether to chance letting the work to the small yards which submitted lower estimates, the problem of maritime labor relations continued to vex the legislators on Capitol Hill.

Pending before the Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor are amendments to the Merchant Marine Act by which the railway labor mediation law would be extended to the shipping industry. Supported by the Maritime Commission and with indications that many members of both committees also are in approval, the suggestion is under determined fire from the maritime unions, the Labor Department, the National Labor Relations Board and the National Labor Relations Board.

Further committee consideration of this issue will continue this week.

London
(Continued From First Page.)

Morrison declared, "then Mr. Eden, if he has any self-respect left, will resign and cease to act as a shadow screen for those of his colleagues who are determined to subordinate British security and peace of the world to Fascist foreign policy."

"If Herr Hitler and Signor Mussolini are capable of cheating each other as they have done during recent weeks, then they are certainly capable of cheating our own not very brilliant cabinet."

Mr. Eden shared Mr. Morrison's suspicions of Mussolini's motives, some observers believed. The foreign secretary attended only one of Mr. Chamberlain's two conferences yesterday with Count Dino Grandi, the Italian Ambassador.

British Lukewarm, Paris Learns.
PARIS, Feb. 19 (AP)—The foreign office today received what was called the British government's "lukewarm" reaction to the French invitation to join in defending Austrian independence.

It was brought here by Charles Corbin, French Ambassador to London, who was closeted throughout the day with Foreign Minister Yvon Delbos. Delbos also received Leon Noel, French Ambassador to Warsaw.

The French government, it was learned, proposed to Britain that the two powers make a public declaration warning Germany they would oppose "any act of force" which would tend to modify the territorial status quo in Central Europe.

Chamberlain said Anthony Eden, British foreign secretary, accepted this "in principle" but, since the question of Anglo-Italian relations must be settled first by the cabinet, a definite answer must be postponed.

The Ambassador reported Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain said he felt he could increase British pressure on Berlin only so far as progress was made toward better relations with Italy.

Lead Battle for District Relief Fund Boost



CANON ANSON PHELPS STOKES.



MRS. EUGENE MEYER.



GEORGE J. CLEARY.



CLARENCE PHELPS DODGE.
—Star Staff Photos.

COMMITTEE TO AID OLDER WORKERS

Conference to Be Held Here on Ways to Discourage Discrimination.

By the Associated Press.
Secretary of Labor Perkins yesterday appointed a committee representing industry, labor and the public to confer here Wednesday and Thursday on ways to discourage discrimination against older workers.

She named Dr. Harry Woodburn Chase, chancellor of New York University, chairman of the committee, and these other members:

Labor—Miss Elizabeth Christman, secretary-treasurer National Women's Trade Union League of America; George M. Harrison, president Brotherhood of Railway and Shipbuilding; Sidney Hillman, chairman Textile Workers' Organizing Committee; Charles P. Howard, president International Typographical Union; Philip Murray, chairman Steel Workers' Organizing Committee; D. W. Tracy, international president International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers; Robert J. Watt, Social Security representative American Federation of Labor.

Industry—John D. Biggers, president Libby-Owens-Ford Glass Co.; J. M. Barker, vice president Sears, Roebuck & Co.; Chester I. Barnard, president New Jersey Bell Telephone Co.; J. A. Brown, president Socony Vacuum Oil Co.; William S. Knutsen, president General Motors Corp.; A. W. Robertson, chairman Westinghouse Electric & Manufacturing Co.; Walter C. Teagle, chairman of the Board Standard Oil Co. of New Jersey.

The public—Miss Mary W. Dewson, member Social Security Board; Daniel J. Doherty, national commander American Legion; Ernest G. Draper, Assistant Secretary, Department of Commerce; Miss Ruth Hill, deputy commissioner Division of Old-Age Assistance, City of New York; Department of Public Welfare; Dr. Dexter M. Keezer, president Reed College, Portland, Oreg.; Dr. H. A. Mills, chairman department of economics, University of Chicago.

Vienna
(Continued From First Page.)

awaiting Adolf Hitler's speech to the Reichstag tomorrow.

Others Not So Reassuring.
Other reports were not as reassuring as the government members' statements. Nineteen representatives of engineers' organizations called on the official of the Federation of Social Workers with demands for dismissal of Nazi engineers and a declaration Austria should abandon the Rome-Berlin axis in favor of a broader foreign policy.

Members of the Leather Workers' Guild sent a resolution to Schuschnigg saying they wished to join the Austrian semi-military Sturmkorps "to fight the interlope."

"If we must surrender, then we want to leave only ruins for the enemy," they said.

A Fatherland Front secretary revealed Schuschnigg told a group of front members "I had only one choice" at the Berchtesgaden meeting with Hitler a week ago.

He said a Nazi uprising was put down in Austria in 1934 when Italian troops massed at Austria's border, "but this time that counterbalancing force was lacking."

Front Opening Is Delayed.
Opening of the Fatherland Front to Nazis, the government's last announced step in fulfilling pledges to Hitler, will take a few days further.

Party lists will be open only eight days as soon as the machinery is perfected, thus admitting Nazis to legal political representation.

Applicants must take an oath of loyalty to the constitution, a provision expected to have a deterrent effect on some radicals.

Appointment of five cabinet members favorable to Nazi Germany, freedom for all political prisoners and a

terted at the District Employment Center who are out of work—and this figure probably represents 60,000 or more persons who are in need."

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Not Baten.
Walter Ufford, veteran private social worker, protested that not only had the House refused to increase the relief appropriation, but that it had reduced the proposed \$705,000 item for old-age assistance, approved by the Budget Bureau, to \$486,000.

In reply to a suggestion that a large mass meeting be called, Mr. Ufford retorted: "We did all that a year ago; we had a mass meeting with more than 1,200 attending, and we sent memorials to the White House and none of this had one scintilla of effect—yet we are faced here with a problem of mass starvation."

Chairman Cleary said: "We do not admit defeat because the House has allowed only \$900,000 for general relief. We have hopes that the Senate will approve the proposed increased sum. If that happens we will be prepared to fight during the long, hard pull between the House and Senate conferees."

Letter to Thomas.
William A. Roberts, president of the Monday Evening Club, told Senators

TERMITES
Most of our jobs come through the recommendation of our customers. Free Inspection, Guaranteed Treatment. TERMITE CONTROL CO. A Washington-Owned Company. W. O. Pruitt, Mar. Natl. Press Bldg., Wash., D. C. 200. Ask Our Customers.

Canon Stokes declared: "It is perfectly preposterous to assume that an appropriation of but \$900,000 will prove sufficient at a time when the need is greater than it was last year."

"Records of the Public Assistance Division of the District show that more than 1,000 applicants for relief were denied last month because of the insufficiency of funds. The Family Service Association, one of the largest private relief associations here, last month denied 399 applicants who were deemed worthy, because of lack of funds. This was the largest number denied since the depression. There are some 24,000 applicants for jobs regis-

Man With 'Right Type Blood' Faces Jail After Transfusion

By the Associated Press.
NEW YORK, Feb. 19.—They were saying tonight that young Bob Ferguson had the right kind of blood. His sister, smiling wanly on her hospital cot, knew it right along. The Government of the United States is taking his word for it.

The right kind of blood? Bob Ferguson is 22. His father is a bartender. His sick sister's husband is a cook. Bob himself is a hotel porter.

No ancestral elegance, you see. No blue blood. Just ordinary blood of the kind his sick sister, the 18-year-old Mrs. Joseph Dumagan, needs to pump through veins fast turning from their fight against toxic poisoning.

Bob was scrubbing the floors of a Napanee (Ontario) hotel when the wire came three weeks ago: "Sister ill, needs transfusion. Can't afford to pay professional donors. Remember you gave transfusion five years ago. Yours is right kind. Can you help?"

Could Bob Ferguson help his sister? He had no money to pay an \$8 head tax to get into the United States or buy transportation from Napanee to New York. You've got to have

money at times like that—money or the right kind of blood. He had that—blood that dared break the law for his sister. He slipped across the border. They caught him. They took him before Judge Frank Cooper in Albany, following his arrest at Rouses Point, near the border.

"I've just got to get to New York," said Bob Ferguson. "It's my kid sister. She's sick. She needs a transfusion. I've got to get there."

"I'll let you go," said Judge Cooper, "until next Wednesday. That's plenty of time. There's a Government man driving to New York today. He'll have room for you. Give your sister the transfusion. I hope it makes her well."

"Then you must come back. You have broken the law. You face a sentence to jail. I release you on your honor until Wednesday."

So Bob Ferguson, at his father's home today, waited the call to the hospital. Afterwards—

"Sure I'm going back. That judge gave me a break, didn't he? You don't think I'd run out on him, do you?"

Nobody seemed to think he would run out. He looked like a lad with the right kind of blood.

At the Mayflower Hotel Friday night. Among the guests of honor were Assistant Secretary of Commerce J. Monroe Johnson and Mrs. Johnson, Senator Copeland, Democrat, of New York, chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, and Mrs. Copeland; Representative and Mrs. Schuyler O. Bland and Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Kerlin.

PLAY OPENS MONDAY
A three-act comedy, "One Delirious Night," will be presented by the Sacred Heart Study Club in the school auditorium, Sixteenth street and Park road N.W., tomorrow and Tuesday at 8:15 p.m. There will be dancing after each performance.

The presentation will be under direction of the Rev. Ronald J. Fannon, assisted by A. J. Bier. Members of the cast are Margaret Mihm, "Billy" Kellinger, Mary Agnes Bier, Marian Wolberg, Nancy Lang, "Bunny" Keelan, Joseph J. Clark, Jr.; Francis Naughten, Harold Quinn, William Wilson, James Zimmer, Robert Cotton and John McClellan.

legal status for Nazis politically were provisions of the agreement with Hitler.

Monarchists, Angered, Meet.
Monarchist leaders, enraged by developments of the past week, met today to decide whether Archduke Otto, heir to the non-existent throne of Austria, should return to the country to lead a campaign for restoration of the throne to upset present Nazi advances.

It was believed a final decision was postponed until after Schuschnigg's address February 24.

Otto's representative, Baron Dr. Friedrich R. von Wiesner, said he had been warned semi-officially not to attempt such a move at present because it might embarrass Germany.

Otto, on the other hand, said six months ago that "should Germany attempt to establish a Nazi regime in Austria, I shall be in Vienna one step ahead of Hitler."

for Thomas in his letter that, while the club does not have all the data available to governmental bodies, "we have, however, sufficient information to be firmly convinced of the serious state of thousands of residents of the District of Columbia who are unemployed and either unemployable or unable to secure employment."

"The general statement that an additional million dollars was needed to afford modest protection to these people has not been convincing to congressional committees," the letter continued, "and in the absence of a comprehensive inquiry into the relief needs it is apparent that misinformation and lack of information must govern appropriations and the expenditure of funds."

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NAMED "HEFTY"
GENEROUS REWARD
Mrs. L. Beam
UPWARD ESTATE
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LAND TO CONTINUE KENNEDY POLICIES

Announces There Will Be No Changes in Taking Maritime Post.

By the Associated Press.
Rear Admiral Emory S. (Jerry) Land, retired chief of the Navy's Bureau of Construction and Repair, assumed the chairmanship of the Maritime Commission yesterday and announced there would be no change of policy.

Describing his post as the "same tough job it's always been," Admiral Land told the Associated Press he intended to "give the best of my ability to attempting to carry out the policies" laid down by his predecessor, Joseph P. Kennedy. Mr. Kennedy has been appointed Ambassador to Great Britain.

"There's nothing of the new broom about me," Admiral Land commented. Asked if he agreed with all of Mr. Kennedy's policies, including his views on the maritime labor situation, he said he did.

This indicated continuation of the commission's fight for legislation to require mediation of maritime labor disputes. Mr. Kennedy, who called labor conditions "chaotic," clashed with Secretary of Labor Perkins on the mediation question. She contends the industry is not "ripe" for mediation.

Admiral Land, 59-year-old Colorado-born sailor and aviator, has been a member of the commission since last April.

Max O'Reil Truitt, 34, a native of Missouri and now general counsel of the commission, will fill out Mr. Kennedy's unexpired term on the commission. White House aides said Mr. Truitt's appointment was temporary pending selection of a West Coast representative.

Mr. Truitt, a son-in-law of Senator Barkley, Democrat, of Kentucky, Senate majority leader, was solicitor of the Reconstruction Finance Corp. before joining the commission.

Is ready to play when connected to an ordinary electric outlet. Price:

\$1275

which do business in the District. A committee representing the Baltimore Chamber of Commerce is to be given a special hearing at 10 a.m. to register the complaint.

Despite the ever-rising tide of opposition to continuation of the business privilege tax, Chairman Nichols believes it will remain the backbone of the tax increase program for the coming fiscal year. He forecast the provision for imposition of an income tax on the salaries of all persons who work in Washington would be eliminated from the measure and that the proposed \$1.75 tax rate on real estate for the 1939 fiscal year would be reduced to \$1.60.

Trade Body to Be Heard.
Chairman Nichols left Washington last night for Oklahoma to make a George Washington birthday anniversary speech in his congressional district and will not return until the latter part of the week. During his absence hearings on the bill will be conducted by Representative Wood, Democrat, of Missouri, ranking majority member of the subcommittee.

The entire hearing tomorrow is expected to be devoted to consideration of the protests of Baltimore business men. A hearing will not be held Tuesday because of the holiday, but Wednesday the Washington Board of Trade will be given an opportunity to outline its views on the new tax program.

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335 TO GET DIPLOMAS
AT G. W. U. TUESDAY

Phi Beta Kappa Chapter to Get Charter at That Time—Marvin to Preside.

Diplomas will be presented to 335 students of the George Washington University at the winter convocation in Constitution Hall Tuesday at 8 p.m.

Dr. Cloyd H. Marvin, president of the university, will preside and present the certificates.

The convocation also will be the occasion for the formal presentation of the charter to the Phi Beta Kappa Chapter at the university, the first in Washington.

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Shore Dinner \$1.25
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